



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards – Colorado

2007 Grant Awards:

Southeast Colorado Power Association, Inc.

Aguilar, Colorado

Grant Amount: \$743,281

Contact: Richard Wilson, (719) 384-7320

County: Las Animas

Rural Development funding will be providing Southeast Colorado Power Association, Inc. the ability to provide wireless service to the residents and businesses in Aguilar, Colorado. The computers will be housed in the current Library/Community Center. It is centrally located in downtown Aguilar, and is the central hub for social activity in the town. The Aguilar Public Schools, library, and the fire department will all be receiving two years of free broadband access. There is currently no bank in the town, so residents may start to enjoy quick easy online banking access!

2004 Grant Awards:

Sunflower Telephone Company

Sheridan Lake, Colorado

Grant Amount: \$299,944

Contact: Patrick Morse, 620-227-4400

County: Kiowa

Sheridan Lake leaders and residents see high-speed access as an engine for economic growth. Broadband Internet access means that agricultural scientists and farmers in this community of 66 residents will be able to track weather patterns, and research or plan accordingly. Sheridan Lake's students gain the advantage of enriched curricula including multimedia interactions that will improve their educational standing. Local businesses and government will be able to reduce expenses and increase efficiency in operations with an Internet connection with significant data transfer speeds. Sunflower Telephone will deploy a relative simple, though very long, broadband network employing existing central offices and telecommunications backbone, and adding one new fiber optic cable transport facility and one new carrier serving area.